

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Health & Welfare Committee

March 01, 2022, 6:00 PM

Members:

Daniel McInturff - present

Thomas Proffitt - present

Robert Acuff - present

Isaiah Grindstaff - present

Charles Von Cannon – present

Randall Jenkins - present

Layla Ward – present

Mike Miller - present

1. Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Chairman Robert Acuff at 6:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Daniel McInturff

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff

Mike Miller

3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Acuff asked to make an amendment to the agenda. Change 7 - A to approve the Resolution Honoring The Life of Clifford Loyal Peters. Change, Continue discussion for ARP Prioritization to 7 – B.

Motion was made by Randall Jenkins, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the agenda with the amendments.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Daniel McInturff

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff

Mike Miller

With eight (8) yes votes, **motion carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes from February 2022

Motion by Thomas Proffitt, seconded by Layla Ward to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Daniel McInturff

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward

With eight (8) yes votes, **motion carried.**

5. Public Comments

Leslie Hughes and Chris Sims from the 911 office came before the committee to propose a project to develop a mobile system for the 911 dispatchers. This system would make it possible to move the 911 office in case of extreme emergency.

Representatives from the Watauga Volunteer Fire Department informed the committee that she has submitted a proposal for the needs of the Watauga Station. She stated that she would like to see all seven of the Volunteer Fire Departments receive a portion of the ARP Funds for the equipment needed.

Daniel Estes from the City of Elizabethton brought his presentation to the committee asking for a portion of the TDEC funds. He explained that the funds for the city were based on the residents that live inside the city limits. He is asking for 35% of the TDAC money for the county because the city serves 35% of the water customers in Carter County.

Terry Arnold came to the committee again asking for help with the staffing problem that he is having at the Rescue Squad. He stated that he could use the one time pay out from the ARP funds to purchase a new truck and supplies. But the fact that the EMT's and Paramedics can go to another county and make a lot more money is the biggest problem what he really needs is a commitment from the county to raise the pay for the employees.

6. Old/New Business

None

7. Resolution for reducing the food sales tax in Tennessee as inflation, gas prices and other commodities increase in price.

Attorney Hardin explained the resolution is a request to state legislation to repeal the state sales tax on groceries and place a temporary moratorium on the state portion of the sales tax on gasoline and motor fuel.

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the Resolution as written.

Road Superintendent, Roger Colbaugh spoke about the money that comes from the fuel tax and how the department is funded in the county. Without this money it will reduce the ability for Highway department to maintain roads and bridges.

Voice Vote as Follows:

Yes:

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Mike Miller

No:

Daniel McInturff

Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff

With five (5) yes votes, three (3) no votes, **motion carried.**

7.a. Resolution Honoring The Life Of Clifford Loyal Peters In Recognition Of His Service To The Citizens Of Carter County And The Stoney Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion was made by Isaiah Grindstaff, second by Daniel McInturff to approve the Resolution as written.

Voice Vote as Follows:

Yes:

Daniel McInturff

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff

Mike Miller

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

7.b. Continue discussion for ARP Prioritizations

The following are the criteria for funding priorities that were discussed.

- Have in the body of the contents the number of people it will serve
- Meet the criteria of what the state has said the money can be used for
- Address the healthcare safety net including fire departments, EMS, and partnering with the city of Elizabethton
- Be in project form. The committee will not be responsible for writing projects. The documentation should include the appropriate information needed including people served, cost, engineering, etc.
- Be a turn-key project and not one that requires phases to accomplish.

The chair anticipates that these will be scored from 0 to 5 with 5 being the highest value.

Motion by Mike Miller, second by Randall Jenkins to accept the framework to prioritize projects for the ARP Funds.

Voice Vote as Follows:

Yes:

Daniel McInturff

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff

Mike Miller

With eight (8) yes votes, **motion carried.**

8. Commissioner Comments

Isaiah Grindstaff stated that the Rescue Squad contract has been out for 3 years. We keep wanting to buy trucks and build buildings, but we have no employees. The Sheriffs office, City Police Department are in the same boat. They train and leave for higher pay. We do not pay enough! When asked how many employees in their departments qualified to get low-income assistance, Sheriff Lunceford stated about 80% and Roger Colbaugh stated about 90% in the Highway Department. We need to fix this problem.

Chairman Acuff stated that he would like to see a base pay

Mike Miller stated that it was the same in the school systems with teachers.

Daniel McInturff agreed that it is across the board in Carter County.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Thomas Proffitt, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to adjourn. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by
Gwen Crowe

DRAFT